

บทความวิจัย

การกระจายตัวของเซลล์อิมมูโนรีแอกทีฟ Bcl-2 ในสมอง ของปลาชิวข้าวสาร (*Oryzias minutillus*, Teleostei)

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บทคัดย่อ

ในการวิจัยนี้เพื่อทำการศึกษาและเก็บข้อมูลตำแหน่งการกระจายตัวของโปรตีน Bcl-2 ในสมองของปลาชิวข้าวสาร (*Oryzias minutillus*) โดยการย้อมเนื้อเยื่อทางอิมมูโนฮิสโตเคมีสเทรี จากผลการทดลองไม่สามารถตรวจพบเซลล์อิมมูโนรีแอกทีฟ Bcl-2 ที่สมองส่วนหน้าบริเวณเทเลนเซฟาลอน แต่สามารถตรวจพบเซลล์อิมมูโนรีแอกทีฟนี้ได้ในส่วนไดเอนเซฟาลอนแต่มีการแสดงออกของโปรตีนนี้ค่อนข้างน้อย เซลล์อิมมูโนรีแอกทีฟ Bcl-2 จะพบกระจายอยู่ทั่วในส่วนของสมองส่วนกลาง โดยพบโปรตีน Bcl-2 จำนวนมากที่บริเวณ proximal pars distalis และ pars nervosa ของ hypophysis ในส่วนของสมองส่วนหลังการกระจายตัวของโปรตีน Bcl-2 สามารถพบได้ง่ายทั้งบริเวณมีเทนเซฟาลอนและโมอีเลนเซฟาลอนอย่างไรก็ตามเมื่อเปรียบเทียบการกระจายตัวของโปรตีนนี้ระหว่างปลาชิวเพศผู้และเพศเมียพบว่ามิลักษณะการกระจายตัวคล้ายกัน จากการศึกษาที่สรุปได้ว่า โปรตีน Bcl-2 มีการกระจายตัวอย่างเฉพาะที่ในแต่ละบริเวณของสมองทั้งสามส่วน แต่การกระจายตัวจะไม่มี ความแตกต่างระหว่างเพศของปลาชนิดนี้สำหรับการศึกษาครั้งนี้เป็นรายงานครั้งแรกถึงการกระจายตัวของโปรตีน Bcl-2 ในสมองของปลาชิวข้าวสาร ซึ่งผลการทดลองที่ได้จะช่วยเพิ่มข้อมูลและความก้าวหน้าในการศึกษาทั่วโลกต่างๆ ของโปรตีน Bcl-2 ในปลาจิ้นส์ซึ่งนิยมใช้เป็นสัตว์ทดลองต้นแบบต่อไป

คำสำคัญ: Bcl-2 เซลล์อิมมูโนรีแอกทีฟ สมอง ปลาชิวข้าวสาร

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Distribution of Bcl-2 Immunoreactive Cells in Brain of Thai Medaka, *Oryzias minutillus* (Teleostei)

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ABSTRACT

In this study, we examined the histological distribution of Bcl-2 protein in the fish brain of Thai medaka, *Oryzias minutillus*, by means of immunostaining procedures. In forebrains, no Bcl-2 immunoreactive (IR) cells were stained in the part of telencephalon. In contrast, IR cells were found along the part of diencephalon, but the expressions were weak. In midbrains, IR cells were widely distributed throughout these portions. Moreover, in the hypophysis, IR cells were strongly detected in the areas of proximal pars distalis and the pars nervosa. In hindbrains, immunoreactive localizations of Bcl-2 were mostly found in the both of metencephalon and myelencephalon parts. Distribution and localization of Bcl-2 IR cells were not different between males and females of Thai medaka. Our results suggest that the distribution of Bcl-2 protein may be region-specific expressions in Thai medaka brain but not sexual dimorphism. It is the first report of Bcl-2 distribution protein in Thai medaka. We support that immunohistological analysis can supply important data regarding the Bcl-2 distribution profile of fish brain and can be able to contribute to systematic studies as animal model of teleost.

Keywords: Bcl-2, immunoreactive cells, brain, Thai medaka

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Introduction

In many vertebrates, B-cell lymphoma (Bcl) 2 is a member of Bcl-2 family that plays central roles in the regulation of apoptotic pathways in several tissues [1-3]. In teleost fish, the Bcl-2 is critical mediators of the delicate balance between survival and apoptosis [4] and is expressed in liver, ovary, testis and lymphoid organ of Atlantic cod, *Gadus morhua*, piau-jejo, *Leporinus taeniatus*, gudgeon, *Gobio gobio* and zebrafish, *Danio rerio*, respectively [5-8]. Kratz et al. [9] also reported that the expressions of Bcl-2 family were found in the brain of zebrafish. However, the data profiling of Bcl-2 in the teleost fish remain to be elucidated.

It is known that Thai medaka, *Oryzias minutillus*, is a relative genus of Japanese medaka (*Oryzias latipes*, Teleostei) which is one of the best model organisms for experimental vertebrate in various fields [10] such as cell biology [11], developmental biology [12] and neurobiology [13]. This species, which is the smallest species among genus *Oryzias*, is widely distributed in Thailand [14]. The body size of Thai medaka is about the half of Japanese medaka [15]. Attributes of Thai medaka that should be encouraged its laboratory use include small size and ease of maintenance in fresh water aquarium [10, 16].

As the aim of this study, we provided an anatomical distribution and cellular basis of Bcl-2 immunoreactive cells in the brain of Thai medaka, *Oryzias minutillus*. Furthermore, we believed that elucidation of the Bcl-2 distribution profile in the brain contribute to increasing our knowledge of the Bcl-2 regulation in teleost fish.

Materials and methods

Fish

Adult Thai medaka of which standard length was 12-14 mm were captured in ponds in suburbs of Bangkok, Thailand, from April to May 2010. This period was the non-breeding season for Thai medaka [16]. Ten males or ten females were kept separately in aquaria with a controlled 12: 12 hr light/dark photoperiod cycle at 26°C for 2 weeks, and fed ad libitum with TetraMin (Tokyo, Japan). Their sexes were judged from the morphology of the secondary sex characters of the dorsal and anal fins, according to the criteria of Ngamniyom et al. [15].

Immunohistochemistry of Bcl-2

Brains of male, female fish were dissected out from the bodies and fixed in Bouin's solution without acetic acid for 12h, and stored in 70% ethanol. Brain fish was precisely separated to three parts, according to the criteria of Ishikawa et al. [17]. The part of telencephalon to the part of diencephalon was distinguished from midbrain as the forebrain. The part of nervus opticus until the posterior end of tectum opticum was indentified such the midbrain. The

hindbrain composed of the metencephalon and myelencephalon. Brain sections were described in Fig. 1A and B. Paraffin sections of brain were prepared at 6 μm .

The primary antibody: anti-Bcl-2 (rabbit anti-Bcl-2 monoclonal antibody; Santa Cruz biotechnology, Inc., OR., USA) was diluted 1: 10,000 (final peptide concentration, 0.02 $\mu\text{g/ml}$). Those sections were incubated with the primary antibody for 16h, with the secondary anti-rabbit antibody (Dako, Glostrup, Denmark) for 30 min, with streptavidin (Dako, Glostrup, Denmark) for 30 min, and finally colorized with diaminobenzidine solution (Dojin Co. Ltd. Japan). Those sections were stained with hematoxylin as a counter staining. Immunoreactive cells, which gave brownish color in the brain, were observed under a light microscope (BX51 Olympus, USA).

The unpaired Student *t*-test was used to examine differences statistically.

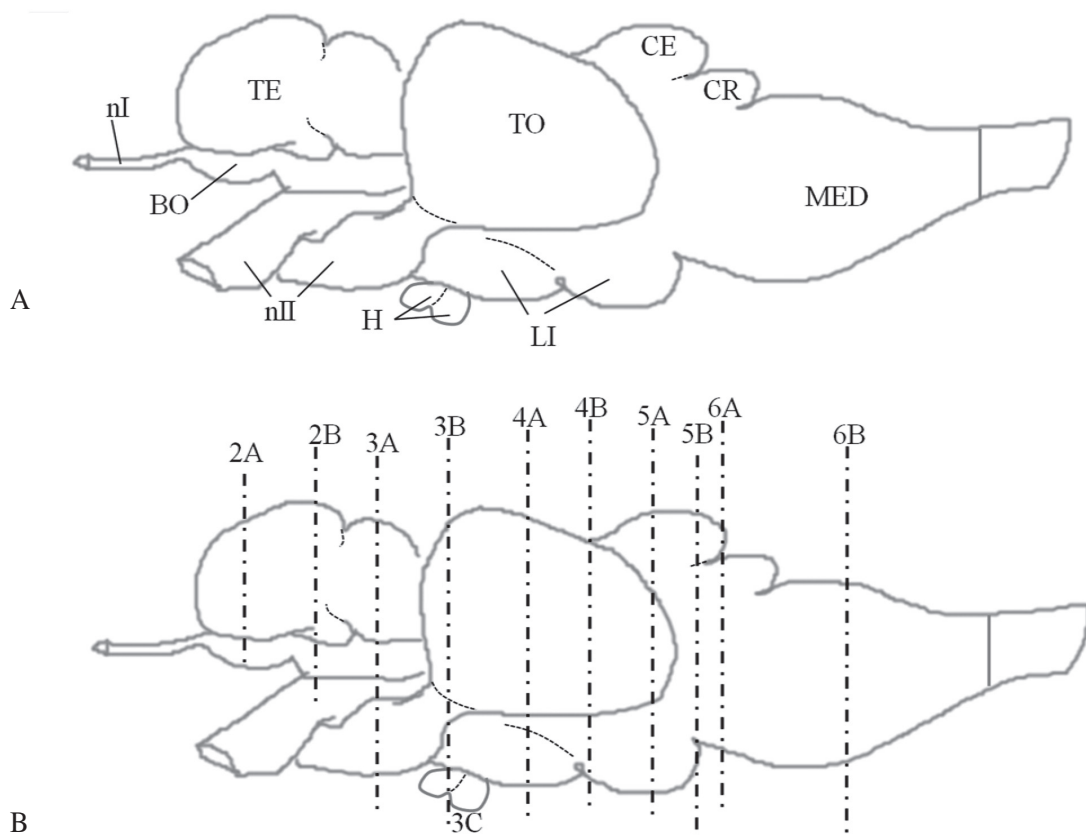


Fig. 1 Diagrammatic illustration of brain sections of Thai medaka (1A) and brain sections of each part (1B). The numbers with alphabet letters in Fig. 1B were related to Fig. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Nomenclature

We followed the neuroanatomical terms of Ishikawa et al. [17]. Other references were listed in the index of abbreviations (Table 1).

Results

It was noted that in this study, distribution and localization of Bcl-2 immunoreactive (IR) cells were not different between males and females of Thai medaka (unpaired Student *t*-test, $P > 0.05$) (Table 1).

Table 1 Distribution of Bcl-2 protein in brains of thai medaka

Structure (abbreviation)	Forebrain		
	Bcl-2 immunoreactive (IR) cell	Number of Bcl-2 IR cell	
		Male (mean \pm SE)	Female (mean \pm SE)
bulbus olfactorius (BO)	-	-	-
area dorsalis telencephali pars lateralis (DI)	-	-	-
area dorsalis telencephali pars medialis (Dm)	-	-	-
dorsal region of Dm	-	-	-
area dorsalis telencephali pars posterior (Dp)	-	-	-
lateral forebrain bundle (lfb)	-	-	-
nucleus preopticus pars magnocellularis (Pom) [32]	+	6.6 \pm 0.7	5.7 \pm 0.5
nucleus preopticus pars parvocellularis (Pop) [32]	+	8.3 \pm 0.6	8.9 \pm 0.4
ventral region of Dm	-	-	-
area ventralis telencephali pars dorsalis (Vd)	-	-	-
area ventralis telencephali pars posterior (Vp)	+	7.3 \pm 0.4	8.1 \pm 0.4
area ventralis telencephali pars ventralis (Vv)	+	12.3 \pm 0.6	9.8 \pm 0.8
Midbrain			
commissura ansulata (cans)	-	-	-
commissura horizontalis (ch)	-	-	-
fasciculus longitudinalis medialis (flm)	+	4.3 \pm 0.2	5.4 \pm 0.3
granule population (G) [31]	+	7.5 \pm 0.6	9.3 \pm 0.4
corpus glomerulosum pars rotunda (GR)	+	3.5 \pm 0.3	4.2 \pm 0.6
hypophysis (H)	+	22.5 \pm 0.9	25.3 \pm 0.8

Table 1 (continue)

Forebrain			
Structure (abbreviation)	Bcl-2 immunoreactive (IR) cell	Number of Bcl-2 IR cell	
		Male (mean \pm SE)	Female (mean \pm SE)
nucleus anterior tubercis (NAT)	+	5.1 \pm 0.2	6.3 \pm 0.4
nucleus diffusus lobis inferioris (NDLI)	-	-	-
nucleus gustatorius secundarius (NGS)	+	6.4 \pm 0.6	7.1 \pm 0.7
nucleus interpeduncularis (NIP)	-	-	-
nucleus nervi trochlearis (NIV)	+	4.0 \pm 0.5	5.3 \pm 0.4
nucleus recessus lateralis (NRL) [32]	-	-	-
nucleus recessus posterioris (NRP) [32]	-	-	-
nucleus raphes (NRHP)	+	18.3 \pm 0.5	23.4 \pm 1.0
nucleus posterioris periventricularis (NPPv) [32]	+	7.0 \pm 0.7	11.1 \pm 0.8
nucleus ventralis tubercis (NVT) [33]	-	-	-
nucleus preglomerulosus pars medialis (PGm)	-	-	-
medial reticular zone (RFm)	+	31.6 \pm 1.7	35.3 \pm 1.6
torus longitudinalis (TL)	-	-	-
tectum opticum (TO)	-	-	-
torus semicircularis (TS)	-	-	-
tractus mesencephalocerebellaris (tmc)	-	-	-
tractus tectobulbaris (ttbc)	-	-	-
tractus tectobulbaris cruciatus (ttbc)	-	-	-
valvula cerebelli (VC)	+	3.2 \pm 0.3	4.7 \pm 0.6
ventriculus mesencephali (vem)	+	5.4 \pm 0.6	4.3 \pm 0.4
nucleus ventromedialis thalami (VM)	+	6.6 \pm 1.1	12.1 \pm 1.6
lemniscus lateralis (ll)	+	4.4 \pm 0.4	3.7 \pm 1.0
nervus oculomotorius (nIII)	-	-	-
Sulcus limitans telencephali [33]	-	-	-
Hindbrain			
cellula Mauthneri (M)	+	10.2 \pm 0.9	11.9 \pm 1.1
commissura ansulata (cans)	-	-	-
eminentia granularis (EG)	-	-	-
fasciculus longitudinalis medialis (flm)	+	6.1 \pm 0.6	7.3 \pm 0.5
magnocellular octavus nucleus (MCN)	+	7.8 \pm 0.3	9.3 \pm 0.7

Table 1 (continue)

Forebrain			
Structure (abbreviation)	Bcl-2 immunoreactive (IR) cell	Number of Bcl-2 IR cell	
		Male (mean \pm SE)	Female (mean \pm SE)
nervus lineae lateralis anterior (nALL)	+	11.0 \pm 0.4	7.9 \pm 1.2
nucleus raphes (NRPH)	-	-	-
nervus octavus (nVIII)	-	-	-
nucleus motorius nervi vagi (NXm)	-	-	-
medial reticular zone (RFm)	-	-	-
tractus tectobulbaris cruciatus (ttbc)	-	-	-
tractus tectobulbaris rectus (ttbr)	-	-	-
secondary octaval population (SO) [31]	+	14.8 \pm 0.8	13.7 \pm 0.7
lobus vagi (XL)	+	19.6 \pm 1.4	17.7 \pm 0.9
radix descendens nervi trigemini (tv)	+	4.6 \pm 0.5	3.6 \pm 0.6
tractus vestibulosplnialis (tvs)	+	3.7 \pm 0.2	4.2 \pm 0.5
nucleus motorius nervi vagi (NXm)	+	5.1 \pm 0.6	4.2 \pm 0.4

Note: The detection of Bcl-2 immunoreactive cells was +, and no detection was -. Male or female group consisted of ten samples of fish brains.

Bcl-2 immunoreactive cells in the forebrain of Thai medaka

No distribution of Bcl-2 IR cells was observed in any area of telencephalon (Table 1, Fig. 2A). In diencephalon part, Bcl-2 IR cells were found in area ventralis telencephali pars dorsalis (Vd) and area ventralis telencephali pars ventralis (Vv) (Fig. 2B). The staining intensity was numerous in area of nucleus preopticus pars parvocellularis (Pop) but was weak near the area of nervus opticus (nll) (Fig. 2B and 3A). Bcl-2 IR cells were also detected in area ventralis telencephali pars posterior (VP) and area of preopticus pars magnocellularis (Pom) (Fig. 3A).

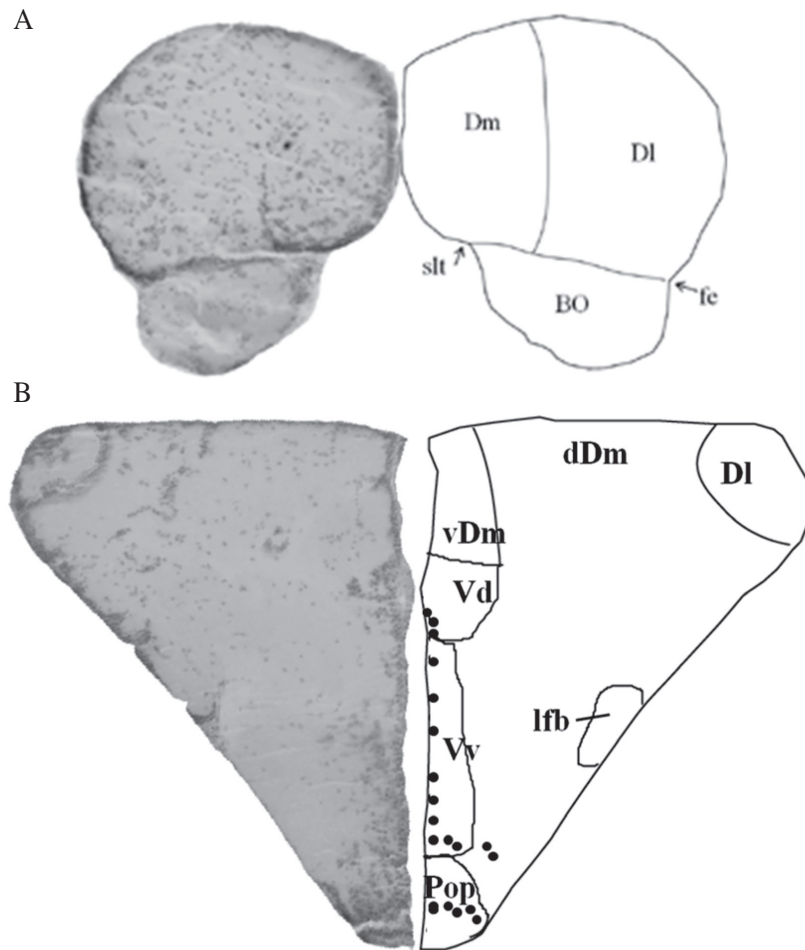


Fig. 2 Distribution of Bcl-2 immunoreactive cells in forebrains of Thai medaka. Rostal part (2A) and caudal part (2B). Bars = 200 μ m

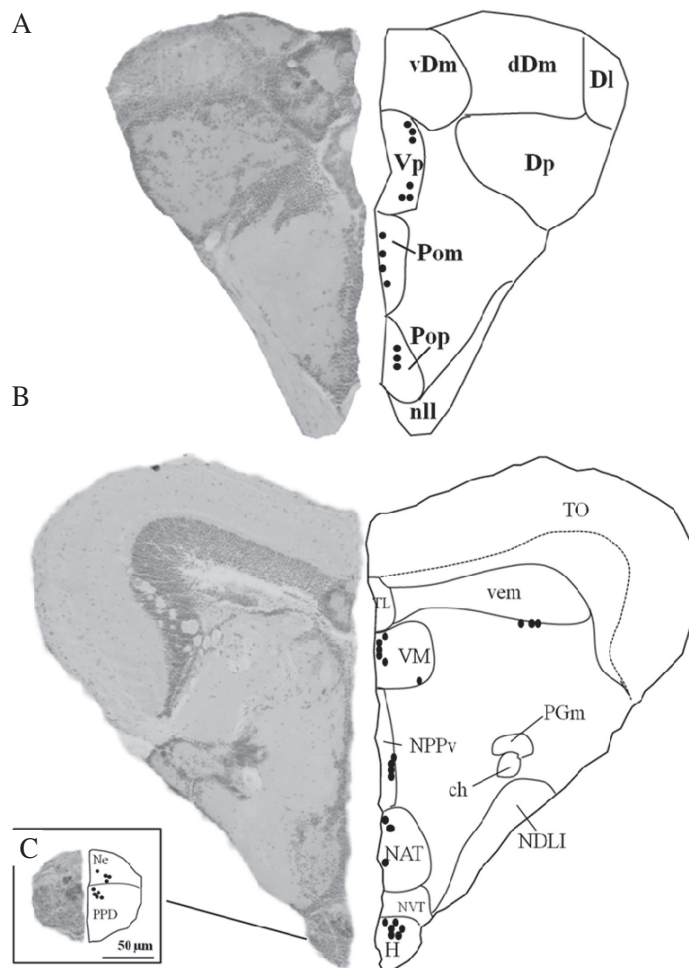


Fig. 3 Distribution of Bcl-2 immunoreactive cells in caudal end of forebrain (3A), rostral part of midbrain (3B) and hypophysis (3C). Bars = 200 μm.

Bcl-2 immunoreactive cells in the midbrain of Thai medaka

Bcl-2 IR cells were found along midbrain part (Table 1). Immunoreactivities of Bcl-2 were localized in areas of nucleus posterioris periventricularis (NPPV), nucleus anterior tuberis (NAT) (Fig. 3B) and valvula cerebelli (VC) (Fig. 4B). In hypophysis, Bcl-2 IR cells were observed intensely in proximal pars distalis (PPD) and the pars nervosa (Ne) (Fig. 3C). Localization of immunoreactive cells was found near the area of ventriculus mesencephali (Vem) (Fig. 3B). Bcl-2 IR cells were surrounded the areas of corpus glomerulosum pas rotunda (GR) and lemniscus lateralis (ll) (Fig. 4A and B). In the end part of midbrain, Bcl-2 IR cells were localized at fasciculus longitudinalis medialis (flm), granule population (G), nucleus gustatoris secundarius (NGS), medial reticular zone (RFm) and nucleus raphes (NRPH) (Fig. 4B and 5A).

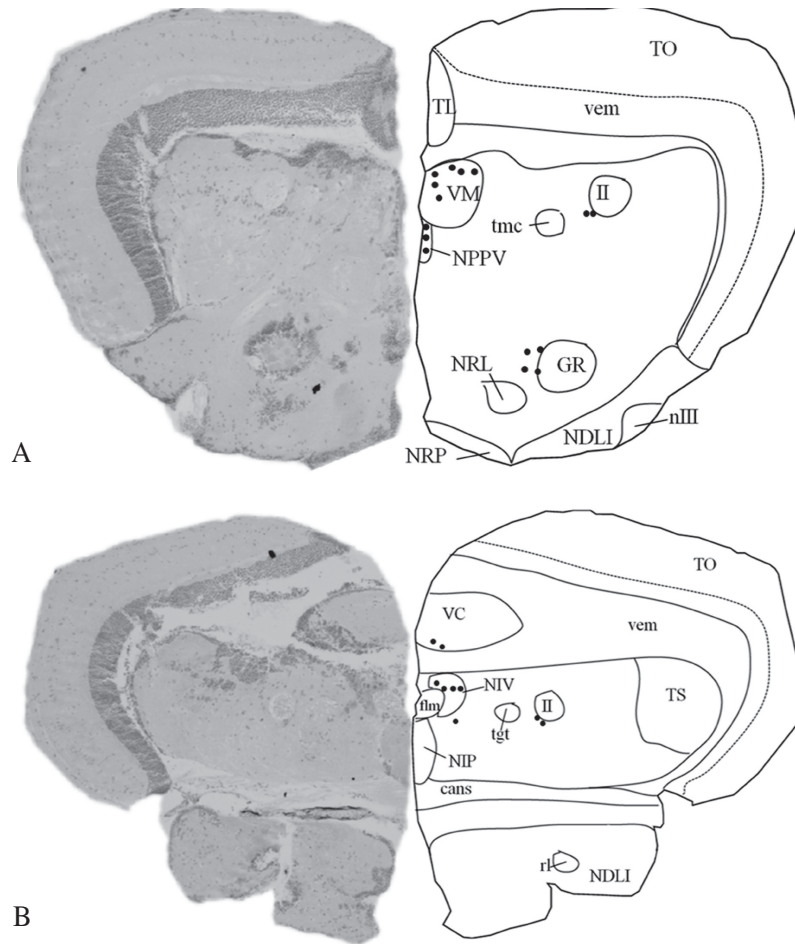


Fig. 4 Distribution of Bcl-2 immunoreactive cells in midbrains. Middle part (4A) and caudal part of midbrain (4B) Bars = 200 μ m.

Bcl-2 immunoreactive cells in the hindbrain of Thai medaka

Bcl-2 IR cells were observed throughout hindbrain part (Table 1). Immunoreactivities of Bcl-2 were mostly found in corpus cerebelli (CE) and RFm (Fig. 5B, 6A and B). In cellula Mauthneri (M), there was the cluster of Bcl-2 IR cells (Fig. 5B). Cells with a thick and thin apical process were both immunoreactive in areas of RFm, M (Fig. 5B and 6A) and flm (Fig. 6B). However, it was hard to detect Bcl-2 IR cells in fasciculus longitudinalis medialis (Fig. 5B, 6A and B). IR cells were abundant in the nucleus medialis (MN) and secondary octaval population (SO) (Fig. 5B and 6A). Positive staining cells were also detected widely in magnocellular octavus nucleus (MCN) and nervus lineae lateralis anterior (nALL) (Fig. 5B, 6A). They were also present in high numbers inside area of lobus vagi (XL) and ventral edge of nucleus motorius nervi vagi (NXm) (Fig. 6B). In radix decedens nervi trigemini (tV) and tractus vestibulosplnalis (tvs), the weak IR cells were found in dorsal edges (Fig. 6B).

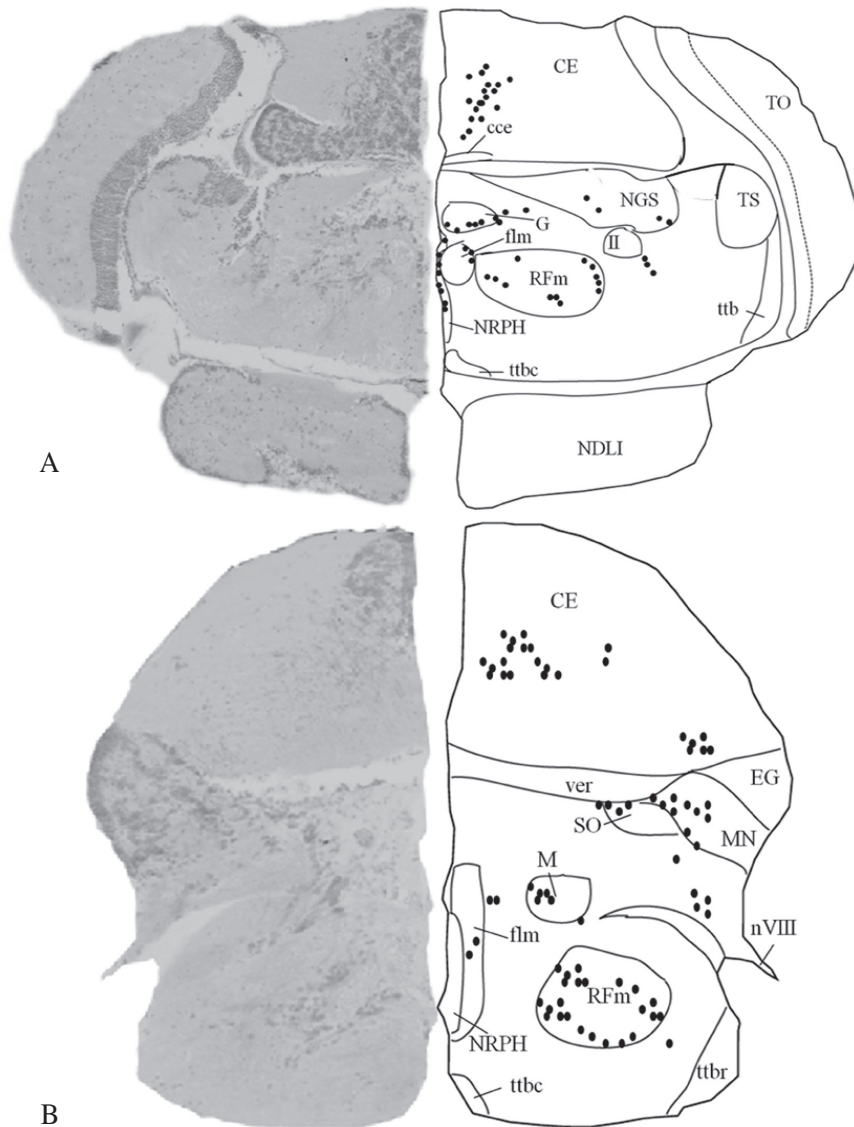


Fig. 5 Distribution of Bcl-2 immunoreactive cells in caudal end of midbrain (5A) and rostral part of hindbrain (5B). Bars = 200 μ m.

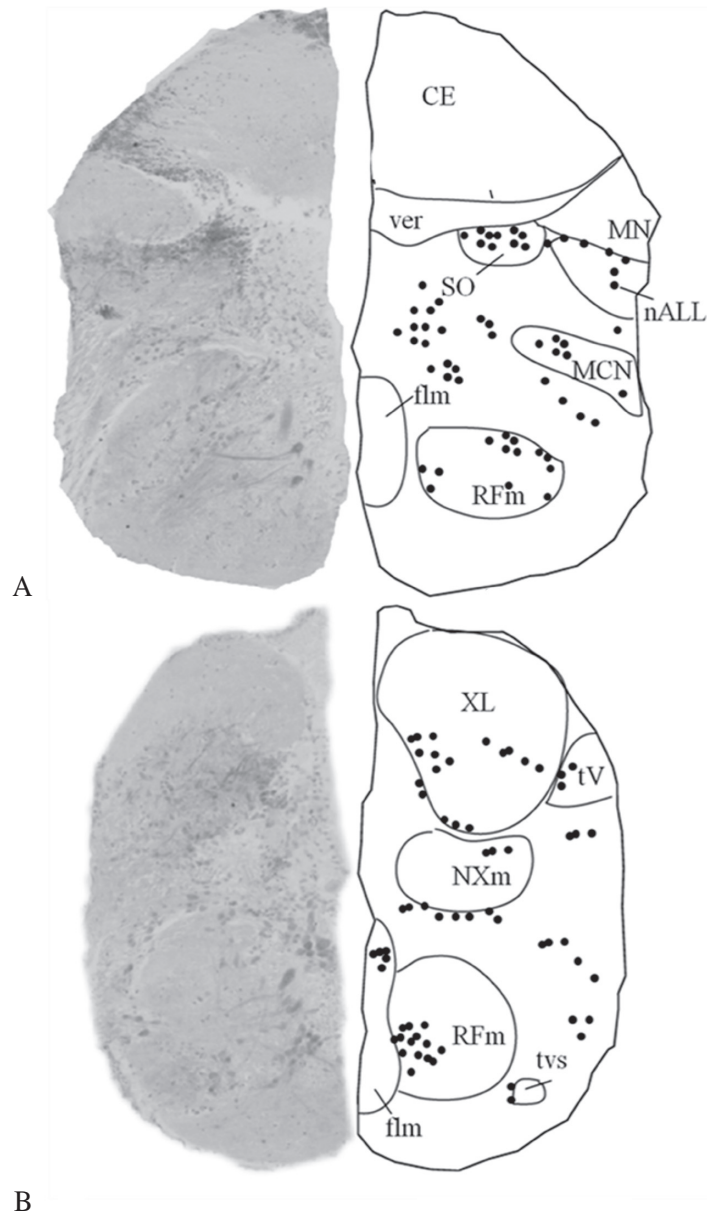


Fig. 6 Distribution of Bcl-2 immunoreactive cells in hindbrains. Middle part (6A) and caudal part of hindbrain (6B). Bars = 200 μ m.

Discussion

In this study, we tried to clarify the distribution profile of Bcl-2 protein in fish by means of immunohistochemical procedures and found that the Bcl-2 protein distribution was brain region-specific. This finding was similar to previous reports of Vyas et al. [18], Zhang et al. [19], Lutz and Prentice [20] and Sick et al. [21] that the expressions of Bcl-2 protein were different in each brain region of human, rat and freshwater turtle (*Trachemys scripta*). Bcl-2 protein may be evolutionarily conserved distribution feature of region-specific in the brain of non-mammalian vertebrates to mammals.

Tsukahara et al. [22] and Forger et al. [23] reported that Bcl-2 protein levels in brains were different between males and females. In Bcl-2 protein distribution, however, there was not sex-specific between male and female brains. Therefore, Bcl-2 may exhibit sexual dimorphisms only in the expression levels in brain.

The distribution of Bcl-2 was examined in forebrain of mammal species [24, 25]. Mooney and Miller [26] reported that the expression of Bcl-2 protein was detected along diencephalon of rats. Shindler et al. [27] also reported that Bcl-2 was expressed in telencephalic cell cultures for playing a supportive role to Bcl-xL in maintaining telencephalic cell survival. In contrast, sections of telencephalon from Thai medaka did not exhibit any of immunoreactivity of Bcl-2 in our present study. It is known that Bcl-2 suppresses apoptotic pathways [9]. Therefore, expression of Bcl-2 protein may be weak or unnecessary for regulating an antiapoptotic role in telencephalic areas of Thai medaka.

In male and female Thai medaka, abundant positive cells of Bcl-2 were detected in edge midbrain near sulcus limitans. Bcl-2 positive cells were strongly expressed in pituitary gland of those fish. These findings are consistent with a report of Shin *et al.* [28] that density of Bcl-2 immunoreactive cells was high in midbrain portions of mice. In contrast, it was hard to detected positive immunostaining for Bcl-2 in normal pituitary of mammals [29, 30].

Similarly to midbrain of Thai medaka, Bcl-2 was highly expressed in hindbrain portion including a part of spinal cords. Shin et al. [28] also reported that Bcl-2 density was strongly detected in hindbrain and spinal cords of rats. It suggests that Bcl-2 may be necessary to some antiapoptotic pathways, regulating on survival cells of midbrain, pituitary gland, hindbrain and spinal cords in medaka fish.

Thus, the dwarf medaka may be provided a convenient model for studying Bcl-2 regulation involved in apoptosis because it has uncomplicated tissues, and most of the same organs are found in mammal species.

In summary, the present study is the first to demonstrate that the Bcl-2 protein distributed specifically in both male and female brains of a fresh-water teleost, although a

comprehensive understanding of regulation mechanism and physiological context remain to be elucidated.

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